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Amendments to the Specification

The Examiner is respectfully requested to replace paragraphs in the specification as follows. Paragraph numbering is taken from the published application on the USPTO web site, which differs from the paragraph numbering in the application which was filed.

[0044] FIG. 3 shows an alternative embodiment cap member 46' used in the joint 12. The alternative embodiment cap member 46' includes body portion 48 with first face 50 and an ~~annular~~ a raised second face 52' surrounding a recessed portion 62. In all other respects, the ~~annular~~ raised second face 52' of the cap member 46' is attached to the coterminous faces of the boss 34 and the first end 18 of first component 16 as described for cap member 46. In this detailed cross-sectional view of joint 12, the first component 16 is shown to consist of a lineal member having a non-constant cross section. While a friction welded joint requires that the coterminous ends (e.g., of boss 34 and end 18) have circular cross sections, it is possible to hydroform an extruded member to have a non-constant cross section. When components with non-circular cross sections are joined, flash welding may be used.

[0049] An The alternative cap member 46' is shown in FIG. 9 for use in conjunction with the alternative sleeve 82'. The teeth 92 are slightly compressed within the recessed portion 62, such compression being facilitated by the split 88 in the sleeve 82'. This embodiment may be assembled prior to the welding or ultimate assembly process. This ensures that the sleeve 82' will be inserted in the gap between the boss inner face 86 and the exterior surface of the first component 16 while only the end 18 and the boss face 42 contact the raised second face 52' of the cap member 46'.